

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FOR EUR/RPM - REHFELD

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, AORG
SUBJECT: FIRST CLASS TRAVEL IN NATO

REF: STATE 34113 (DTG 090146Z FEB 78)

1. THE CURRENTLY ENFORCED NATO RULE IS CONTAINED IN ART
40.22 OF THE NATO STAFF REGULATIONS, TRAVEL BY AIR:
BEGIN TEXT:

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(A) UNCLASSIFIED MEMBERS OF THE STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THE
STAFF IN GRADES A.6 AND ABOVE WILL BE ENTITLED TO FIRST
CLASS TRAVEL. END TEXT.

2. FYI: THERE ARE 29 EMPLOYEES WHO WOULD FALL UNDER THIS
REGULATION, I.E., SYG, DSYG, 4 ASYGS, THE DIRECTOR OF
COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND 22 A-7 AND A-6
EMPLOYEES. THE IS CONTROLLER HAS NOTED THAT FOR FLIGHTS
WITHIN EUROPE THESE EMPLOYEES USUALLY USED ECONOMY CLASS,
BUT ON TRANS-ATLANTIC FLIGHTS THEY ARE GRANTED FIRST
CLASS PASSAGE.

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3. THE CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE, IN ITS C-M(75)78 DATED
11 DECEMBER 1975, BEGIN QUOTE:

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"HAS NOTED THAT, AT TIS REQUEST, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL
PREPARE, FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION, AMENDMENTS TO THE
TRAVEL REGULATIONS WITH THE AIM OF RESTRICTING ENTITLEMENT
TO FIRST CLASS AIR TRAVEL TO STAFF MEMBERS OF THE RANK

OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL AND ABOVE." END QUOTE.

4. THIS COMMITTEE REPORT WAS APPROVED BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 17, 1975.

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5. ON 24 NOVEMBER 1976, THE MISSION REQUESTED FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL, THE STATUS OF THESE REGULATIONS, WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAD BEEN PUBLISHED; AND IF NOT YET PUBLISHED, ARE THEY BEING ENFORCED. NO WRITTEN REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED TO THIS QUERY, AND ORAL RESPONSES INDICATED A CONTINUING SEARCH TO DISCOVER WHAT ACTION WAS UNDERWAY, IMPLYING A RESTRAINT TO FURTHER ACTION WITHIN THE IS.

6. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REFTEL, THE MISSION AGAIN UNDERTOOK TO DETERMINE WHAT ACTION, IF ANY HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY THE IS ADMINISTRATION. IT IS APPARENT FOLLOWING PHONE-CONS THIS DATE WITH THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND THE NEW DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL THAT NO FURTHER ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION IN RESPONSE TO THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION. IN FACT, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FIND THE MISSION'S ORIGINAL 24 NOVEMBER 1976 ENQUIRY.

7. WE HAVE THEREFORE INFORMED THE ADMINISTRATION ORALLY OF OUR INTENT TO INTERVENE FORMALLY IN COUNCIL AT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEXT NAC TO ENQUIRE WHY THE COUNCIL'S APPROVED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AND RECOMMENDING IMMEDIATE CHANGE TO THE STAFF REGULATIONS TO LIMIT FIRST CLASS AIR TRAVEL TO THE SYG, DSYG AND 4 ASYGS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE. WE WILL DRAW ON THE RESTRICTIONS OF THE UN CITED IN REFTEL, AS WELL AS ON US GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS. WE CAN EXPECT EFFORTS BY THE SYG AND/OR ADMINISTRATION TO ATTEMPT TO CLOUD THE ISSUE BY DRAWING PARALLELS BETWEEN CURRENT NATO REGULATIONS AND THOSE OF THE OECD WHICH PERMIT A7 AND A6 FIRST CLASS TRAVEL ON FLIGHTS EXCEEDING NINE HOURS (TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHTS). THIS ANTICIPATED ACTION MAY WELL COME BECAUSE THE DIRECTOR OF THE SYG'S CABINET AND OTHER KEY A-7 AND A-6 POLICY MAKERS STAND TO LOSE A HIGHLY VALUED STATUS BENEFIT. WE ALSO PROPOSE INTERVENTION AT THE CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE LEVEL TO ENQUIRE WHY ACTION HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING, BUT WE DO NOT FORESEE AN IMMEDIATE CHANGE TO CURRENT PROCEDURES.

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ACTION REQUESTED: CONCURRENCE IN PROPOSED ACTION AND FURTHER GUIDANCE AS APPROPRIATE. GLITMAN

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